

## SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

*Philedone gerningana* (D. & S.) (Lepidoptera; Tortricidae) in East Anglia — On the 28.vii.86, a single example of an unfamiliar tortricoid moth appeared at a 125-W mercury vapour lamp on Roydon Common, West Norfolk (VC 28). This was later identified as *Philedone gerningana* (D. & S.). From Bradley, Tremewan and Smith (1973) the distribution of this moth can be summarized as follows; widely distributed in Scotland, recorded over much of Wales and northern and western England as well as being noted from Kent. Therefore, the occurrence of this species in Norfolk would appear to mark an interesting extension in range. However, the bogs and commons around Kings Lynn are known to contain a northern and western element in their invertebrate fauna and hence the presence of this moth on Roydon Common is not without precedent.

The site was revisited on the 6.vii.87, by myself and Mr A.P. Foster with the aim of looking for larvae of *Choristoneura lafauryana* (Ragonot). We collected a number of spun shoots of Bog Myrtle (*Myrica gale* L.), but few of these proved to contain tortricoid larvae. On returning to the car I put up a second example of *P. gerningana* from amongst heather. This species was later confirmed as a resident of this common when a third example was bred from the spinings that we collected. It is apparent that this is also the first occasion Bog Myrtle has been recorded as a foodplant for this moth.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Norfolk Naturalists Trust for granting permission to visit this reserve. — M. Parsons, Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA.

## REFERENCE

Bradley, J.D., Tremewan, W.G. & Smith, A. 1973. *British Tortricoid Moths; Cochylidae and Tortricidae: Tortricinae*. London: Ray Society.

**Monarchs resident in Spain** — Four years ago (*Proc. Trans. Br. ent. nat. Hist. Soc.* 1984; 17:84) I wrote a short note about *D. plexippus*. I had found a small colony in Southern Spain and I expressed the hope that these fine insects were now resident in Europe. The situation was reviewed by A. Bretherton in the same issue.

I returned to the same area near Malaga at the same time of year, that is April 1987 and found *plexippus* flying in about the same numbers as in 1984. I was accompanied by Claude Rivers and Karl Bailey and we searched the area for *Asclepias curassavica*, the normal foodplant of the Monarch. The plant is widely distributed in the bottoms of the valleys running down to the sea in the area around Nerja, but is nowhere common.

F.A. Naclo in his article in SHILAP (43:131) mentions the road between the coast and the town of Torrox as the area for the butterfly and *curassavica*. This is an area of commercial cultivation with large plastic sheet greenhouses and we found only a few plants. These are scattered in the valleys to the East and West of Nerja. Virtually every plant had ova and larvae on them, the larvae ranging from fully grown to first instar on the same plant. The adults themselves varied from very fresh to very worn. Some plants were almost defoliated by the larvae. There was no sign either now or in 1984 of *chrysippus*, mentioned by Naclo as found by him in 1983.

To summarise, it seems that *plexippus* is still resident in the area of southern Spain around Nerja and possibly further afield and has been resident for at least 5 years. A.